



NEWSLETTER SPRING 2009

Since our last newsletter in November, Bernards Heath has been battered by heavy and continuous rain, turning all the unimproved paths into squelchy mud. The snow and ice made the woods beautiful and the upper heath and lower field a magnet for snowmen, toboggans and snowballing! It was great to see so many families taking advantage of such ideal conditions. After the thaw, the daffodils are flowering once again.

Current topics...

Improved Cycle Path – We have discovered that our original objections to the proposed plan (detailed in the last newsletter) had been taken on board and will be implemented on the sensitive section through the wood. We had heard nothing from any source until a notice announcing the start of work on Monday 9th March was spotted. We immediately registered our alarm and a meeting was speedily called but to no avail. There had been a complete breakdown in communication with us but it seems that the work cannot be delayed. We feel vindicated in having taken time last year to consider the proposals carefully and to make necessary suggestions for improvement, and we can be sure too, that after this fiasco on the part of the local and county council we shall be fully consulted on any other issue concerning our Heath!

BMX Area – This has become very degraded through careless use and is being taken up by your committee with the local council.

Website – We are still working on making it user friendly. We feel that it is necessary to get it right so that, in the event of a threat of future building on the Heath, it is already up and running.

Civic Society – In January, Peter Burley, a committee member and noted local historian, gave a fascinating talk about the history of Bernards Heath and the origins and activities of the Friends. We sold a few more of the “History of Bernards Heath” booklets available from the treasurer at the cost of £3.50.

Litter bins ,– Three new wooden litter-bins have been provided by the council in the wooded area to the west of Harpenden Road.

Laurel bushes – The bushes on Sandridge Road have been severely cut back, it seems at the request of the police to make visibility easier for them. No comment.

Dates for your diary:-

Annual General Meeting. This will be held on Saturday 28 March at 09.30 at Heath House. It is usually fairly brief and is timed to leave most of Saturday free. Do come and meet other Friends!

Action Day 19 April from 09.30. Meet outside Heath House. Our last Action Day was extremely wet but we managed to plant ten more native trees which are still flourishing. Unfortunately it was not suitable for litter-picking so this is what we shall concentrate on in April. We can provide plenty of black sacks and some litter-pickers. Children are welcome if accompanied.

And finally.....

If you have forgotten to renew your FoBH membership, it is still £10 per family. (It has not increased since we were founded!). Please see renewal form overleaf.

Family name.....tel.....

Address.....email.....

I enclose £10 for annual membership. (Cheques payable to Friends of Bernards Heath)

Signed.....

Please send to the treasurer: Sue Swain, 10 Seymour Road, St Albans, AL3 5HW